

# **BAMPTON** 8.11.73

## **Bingo**

At a bingo session in aid of Bampton Badminton Club, the winners were: Mrs R. Wheeler, Mrs M. Spurrett, Mrs K. Stevens, Mrs D. Bartlett, Mrs E. Foreshew, Mrs B. Craddock, Mrs L. Cole, Mrs F. Radband, Mrs A. Tanner, Mrs Mansfield, Mrs D. Pullen, Mrs B. Smith, Mrs Sarah, Mrs Efstathiou, Mrs J. Cook, Mrs V. Beckett, Mrs G. Stevens, Mrs T. Foreshew, Mrs A. Smith, Mrs A. McCauley, Mrs Davocato, Miss W. Brown, Miss B. Molyneux, Miss S. Foreshew, Mr Scruby, Mr D. Foreshew, Mr S. Pearce, Mr Runyard and Mr Knight.

## **Coffee morning**

A coffee morning and bring and buy sale on Wednesday last week at the home of Mr and Mrs P. Smith was organised by the committee of the Bampton branch of the Cancer Research Campaign. Funds benefited by £65 in addition to the sale of Christmas cards for the National Campaign funds. A hamper of groceries was won by Mrs Stewart-Wood, and raffle prizes were won by Mrs M. Bullen, Mrs H. Pickard, Mrs E. Wheeler, Mrs W. Woodley, Mrs M. Lane and Mrs F. Radband.

## **Darby and Joan**

A social afternoon for members of Bampton Darby and Joan Club was held on Friday in the Old Grammar School. Tea was served and games and competitions played. Prizes were won by Mrs T. Smith, Mrs Wilkins, Mrs Probyn, Mrs G. Smith, Mrs A. Tanner, Mrs Newing, Mrs Mills, Mrs Whitlock, Mr Pidduck, Mrs Preston, Mrs Green, Mrs Moye, Mrs Borrett, Mrs Lay, Mrs Radband, Mrs Barchard, Mrs Iving, Miss Buckingham, Miss Webb, Mrs Slim, Mrs Craddock and Miss Long.

## **Jumble Sale**

With the aid of their officers, parents and friends, members of the Bampton and Burford (2267 Sqn.) A.T.C. held a successful jumble sale on Saturday afternoon in their headquarters at Aston Road. There were several competitions and prizes were won by Mr Saxby; June Davies, of Aston; Mrs A. Smith; raffle, Mrs M. Clack, Mrs Miles, Mrs R. Hunt, Miss R. Brooks and others.



# Bampton man uncovers arms haul

A BAMPTON man serving with the 1st Battalion the Royal Green Jackets in Northern Ireland uncovered an explosives and ammunition haul in the Lower Falls area recently.

Sergeant David Sturges, 27, lives at 19 China Close, Bampton. He is married with two children and his family are at present in Germany, where the battalion is normally based.

He came across the arms find during a routine search on some waste ground near a derelict cinema.

Sgt Sturges (left) and a colleague with some of the explosives.



8-11-73

# Boy of two dies in house blaze

RESCUE ATTEMPTS by neighbours failed to save a two-year-old boy who died in a bungalow blaze at Bampton on Tuesday



Two-year-old Richard Curtis (left) pictured with his brother Robert, aged four, and their twelve-year-old aunt, Cheryl Beckett.



The blackened front doorway that opens onto the fire-gutted interior of 15 Colvile Close, Bampton, where Richard Curtis died on Tuesday morning.

Two-year-old Richard Curtis was trapped by fire at his parents' home at 15 Colvile Close.

His four-year-old brother, Robert, was taken to safety by their mother, Mrs Jane Curtis.

Another rescue attempt was made by a relative, 21-year-old Adrian Beckett who dived through the bedroom window to try and find Richard, but was driven back by smoke.

Shortly after 7.30 am Mrs Olive Crewe and her husband, who live nearby at 5 Chandler Close, heard a woman screaming.

"My husband was leaving to go fishing when he saw the blaze. The mother was screaming and saying that her other child was still in the house.

"I ran round the back and my husband broke the window to try and get in. It was an inferno in the hall. Smoke was everywhere and it was impossible to get any further," said Mrs Crewe.

The alarm was also raised by a helper at Bampton primary school, Mrs Vera Elward, of 21 Colvile Close.

She said she heard a dull thud early in the morning: "There was a small explosion and I thought I heard someone crying and a child screaming.

"I ran out of the door and saw a woman going up the road with a baby under her arm. A neighbour with a cardigan over his face was trying to break the window and get in. Smoke and flames were everywhere."

Police traced Richard's father, Mr Brian Curtis, who was working in the West Country, and told him of the tragic death of his son.

Firemen from Burford and Bampton were called to the scene and quickly got the fire under control. Police from Witney investigated the blaze and Det. Sgt. Richard Bennett said that forensic scientists from Aldermaston would be called in to try and establish the cause of the fire.



8-11-75

# Whisker contest raises cash for fund

JUDGES at the Eagle Inn, Bampton, on Wednesday last week had a difficult task. There were confronted by 18 lads who a month ago entered the great moustache-growing competition.

And the judges were faced with picking the best of the bunch from the resulting whisker-clad upper lips, which ranged from slightly wispy to wildly endowed in colours from blonde to black.

After much scrutiny and assessment of style, texture, colour, symmetry and length Mr Bill Daniels (right), with his neat, military exhibit, was named the winner.

He received a cup, certificate and £3.50 in prize money.

In second place was Mr Christ Lewis, landlord of the Eagle, seen below getting a congratulatory kiss from his wife. He received a cup and £1.50 prizemoney.

Mr Mike Blake, sporting a dark moustache with a neat centre parting, was third; Mr Barry Broome was fourth; and fifth was Mr John Tanner.

The competition was the latest event in Bampton's Pumpkin Club's money raising efforts for the Eagle's Christmas fund for the old age pensioners of Bampton. The contest raised just over £19 for the fund and a customer rounded the figure up to a clear £20.







Grand judge Vic Stevens, landlord of The Trout Inn at Tadpole Bridge, with his impressive display of facial floribunda . . .

Chris Lewis, landlord of the Eagle Inn, Bampton, with his six-week-old moustache . . .

And Bill Govier, the convenor of the Eagle Moustache Club, with shaving brush. Pictures by PETER FLOYD.

OFFHAND I don't think I've ever heard of a contest before which began as a close shave and ended with the winner defeating his opponents by a whisker.

But that's the only way to describe the hair-raising venture which gets under way at the Eagle Inn, Bampton, at nine o'clock on Sunday evening.

"In your column," wrote Bill Govier in a letter recently calculated to boost my ego and tickle my fancy, "you have done a great deal towards increasing local interest in competitions such as sun-flower growing and pumpkin growing. I wonder if you would care to help us in the same way with our latest competition: moustache growing."

### Wet whiskers

Well, the only time I tried to cultivate my upper lip the resultant growth was so droopy that it tasted perpetually of tomato soup and in the end I had to shave it off. But I'm not averse to wetting my whiskers, metaphorically speaking.

So last Saturday morning I popped across to Bampton for an informal session of the

Eagle Moustache Club, to have a word with the experts on the culture of the various varieties, to meet the principal judge — a chap with an impressive display of facial floribunda from The Trout at Tadpole Bridge called Vic Stevens — and to inspect the rules of the great moustache growing competition.

The club was formed on September 8, the morning after the finals of the Aunt Sally Competition and was the outcome like so many pub contests of a friendly argument over a pint of ale. But you could say the inspiration was the example of the landlord, Chris Lewis.

About six weeks ago Chris, who is a member of the local fire brigade had to turn out at 5 o'clock one morning before he had had a chance to shave. By the time he got

back it hardly seemed worth bothering.

So he let it go for the day and when he went to apply his razor to his upper lip the following morning was impressed to find there was a handsome red stubble, which he thought worthy of cultivation.

Needless to say, the banter he had to put up with from the regulars for the next few days was something cruel. But he persevered and by the time the Aunt Sally finals took place sported a luxuriant brush which nobody, even in their cups, could mistake for a bit of fluff.

So when the chaps got around to debating what next they could do for the Bampton Pumpkin Club, which so far has raised close on £800 for the Old Folks' Christmas Fund, it went without saying

that some wag should suggest a moustache growing competition.

Much hirsute badinage ensued between those who had moustaches about whether they'd be able to grow them again if they shaved them off, and between those who hadn't moustaches about whether they'd be able to grow them at all and the outcome was that 14 more or less reluctant contestants were forced to sign their names on the dotted line.

### On show

According to the rules ratified and approved by Vic Stevens they and any others desirous of competing must attend the Eagle Inn on Sunday evening for an upper lip inspection when a barber will be in attendance to remove

any trace of bristle

They will then be free to cultivate their exhibit in whatever manner they choose for one clear calendar month until the night of October 31, when at 8 p.m. at the Eagle Vic Stevens and I will call upon them to be up-standing and present their antennae for our adjudication.

Quite how we shall decide the winners remains to be decided. It has been suggested that in order to be strictly fair we shall need to shave the contestants again, wash, dry, then carefully weigh their whiskers in a balance. But I think that is asking a bit much of us.

What you may be sure is that we shall turn a stiff upper lip to any form of bribery, sharp practice or corruption and if you would like to join in all you need to do is

turn up at the Eagle on Sunday evening with your signing on fee, which is 50p (women 10p).

The winner will receive 35 per cent of the fees, the second 15 per cent of them, the third a safety razor, and the remainder will go to the Christmas Fund with any 50p fines that are incurred by competitors for shaving off abortive moustaches between Sunday and October 31.

"We had to do that," says Bill Govier, the contest organiser. "Otherwise you'd get folk trying to nobble the weaker-willed competitors. They can be surprisingly unkind. They said I looked like a ferret peering over a worn-out toothbrush the last time I tried to grow a moustache."

"Well, what would you do? I was so upset I went home and shaved it off."

# September 1973 Hair-raising — that's the men of Bampton!





**VISITING** squire Alec Bradley from the Jockey Morris Men of Birmingham, talking with another visitor to Bampton, Mr. Norman Earthrowl from Bishop Stortford, and Wolverhampton Giffords Morris Man David Humphries.



# MORRIS DANCING AT BAMPTON



BAMPTON Morris Men leading the dancing at the Morris Festival at Bampton on Saturday morning.



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...the Jockey Morris Men of Birmingham, talking with another visitor to Bampton, Mr. Norman Earthrohl from Bishop Stortford, and Wolverhampton Giffords Morris Man David Humphries.



**MEMBERS** of the Bampton boys Morris dancing team giving a display outside one of the picturesque village public houses on Saturday.





**TIMMY UPTON (4), from Carterton (right) sampling a piece of the Morris cake at Bampton on Saturday. With him is Mr. Kenneth Adams and John Buckingham, both from Bampton.**